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The investigation is valuable, in that it reveals the importance of "contact" as a factor in the reactions of *Cypridopsis* to light. The problem has been suggested, rather than analyzed, by the author, and it demands further attention. Obviously the observations fail to disprove the possibility of photopathy or the selection of an optimum intensity, although they do emphasize the importance of the rays' directive influence.

R. M. YERKES.

Notes.—*Circular No. 40*, second series of the Division of Entomology of the United States Department of Agriculture, dealing in a brief synoptical way with the mosquitoes of North America, is of unusual general interest, since it renders evident, at a glance, whether or not a prevalent mosquito belongs to the genus *Anopheles*, which appears to comprise the species by which human malaria is chiefly, if not exclusively, spread.

Professor E. S. Morse, in "A Bubble-Making Insect" (*Appleton's Popular Science Monthly*, May, 1900), discusses the fluid accumulations of the Cercopidæ. A "look over the literature of the subject," considered "sufficient to indicate the common belief among entomologists," cites no authority later than 1869. In writing for general readers, the latest works, rather than the earlier classics, should be quoted, and even a "superficial survey" of what has been published on the subject, if directed aright, would not have been so wholly barren as Professor Morse's paper would indicate. The froth is stated to act as a protection against enemies; certain Hymenoptera, however, provision their nests with young cercopids selected from the spits.

In a separately paged extract from the Fourth Annual Report of the Commissioners of Fisheries, Game, and Forests of the State of New York, Dr. E. P. Felt gives an account of seven insects injurious to maple trees. The species treated are the white-marked tussock moth, *Notolophus leucostigma*, forest tent caterpillar, *Clisiocampa disstria*, leopard moth, *Zeuzera pyrina*, maple sesian, *Sesia acerni*, sugar-maple borer, *Plagionotus speciosus*, maple-tree pruner, *Elaphidion villosum*, and cottony maple-tree scale, *Pulvinaria innumerabilis*. The descriptions, though brief, are accurate and adequate, and with the illustrations make the recognition of the several species easy. The title-page and cover read, "Insects injurious to forest trees, 1898." The title line, however, gives, "Insects injurious to maple trees," and at the very outset Dr. Felt states his reasons for confin-

ing his report to insects affecting shade trees. He also records the result of observations made in 1899.

Messrs. Henry Holt & Co. publish (New York, 1899) a new issue of Scudder's *Brief Guide to the Commoner Butterflies of the Northern United States and Canada*. The text shows but slight change from the original of 1893. The illustrations, borrowed from other works, are new to this issue, and give, with varying success, figures of the eighty-four species treated in the text.

"The Recognition of the Poisonous Serpents of North America," an address with a demonstration to the graduating class in the medical school, before the Johns Hopkins Medical Society, by Professor Howard A. Kelly, is printed in the *Bulletin of the Johns Hopkins Hospital*, Vol. X, No. 105. Figures of six snakes, three poisonous species and three harmless species, illustrate the paper. The disadvantages under which a physician labors when dealing with a purely zoölogical subject are clearly shown in the text.

BOTANY.

An Experimental Botany.—Teachers who believe in approaching the study of plants from the physiological point of view will welcome Dr. MacDougal's latest guide.¹ The book is intended for the use of beginners who have not the facilities of a laboratory. Only a hand magnifier and such apparatus as may be extemporized readily with the aid of household articles are required in the observations and experiments to which the student's attention is directed. It will be a surprise to many teachers to find how fully the more important general principles of plant physiology may be illustrated by these simple experiments, while the young people who perform the experiments cannot fail to be delighted with what they will witness, and be led to valuable general ideas of plant life. The book abounds in fresh and inspiring suggestions.

It must be said, however, that users of the book are assumed to have acquired sufficient knowledge of systematic botany and facility

¹ MacDougal, Daniel Trembly, Ph.D., Director of the Laboratories, New York Botanical Garden. *The Nature and Work of Plants: an Introduction to the Study of Botany*. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1900. Cloth, 12 mo. xvii + 218 pp.